Cuba and the Swedish Colony at Bayate

A translation of

Cuba och den Svenska kolonien vid Bayate

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Translator's Note

This is a translation of a booklet "Cuba och den Svenska kolonien vid Bayate" edited by Dr. Lind to promote the Swedish colony (settlement) at Bayate, Oriente, Cuba that he established. It was directed at potential Swedish settlers from Sweden and published by Dr. Alfred Lind in 1906 before his trip to Sweden to promote the colony.

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Daniel Eugene Anderson
Lake Grove, Oregon, 1 January 2026

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Cuba and the Swedish colony at Bayate.

CUBA has been a republic since May 1902. To win this result it had to go through a long and bloody war with the Kingdom of Spain, whose oppression it had patiently borne for 400 years. But no sooner had the bond with the mother country been broken than it began to gather new energy and rise from the state of impotence in which it had so long been. During the new era of peace and prosperity that has entered Cuba since it threw off the Spanish yoke, it seems natural and obvious that Cuba's industries should flourish. Innumerable are the improvements that have occurred in both its government and its industries during the short period of 4 years.

The situation in Cuba is now particularly favorable for a rapid upsurge in all its branches of industry. Its inhabitants are now free to govern their country as they see fit. They are free from impoverishing debts and taxes; they can make their own laws; they can do what they please with their land and its products. Cuba is one of the most fertile countries in the world. Its products are varied and of great importance in world trade; its situation is very favorable in relation to other countries and especially to the United States, their best market.

The Cubans are intelligent and ambitious. They have learned to appreciate the advantages of independence, good government, good laws, good means of transportation, good health, good schools, modern machinery and methods of work. It is not surprising that they entertain sanguine hopes for the future. They hope to double their sugar and tobacco industries, their most important

industries, and to work up a very profitable export of fruits, vegetables, timber, minerals, and many other things, which have hitherto been uncultivated, and to manufacture much of what they are now obliged to import from foreign countries. Judging from present circumstances, all this is possible, nay, more than that, it is an absolute certainty.

Cuban sugar is world famous. The sugar industry began in Cuba in the middle of the last century, and since then the production of sugar has varied from 100,000 to 1,000,000 tons. The sugar cane grows luxuriantly, and once planted, it takes little work to keep a sugar plantation in order. When it is harvested, which happens once a year, the leaves are cut off and left on the ground, which prevents the growth of weeds. Replanting is only necessary about every 10 years. Preparing the sugar for the market, on the other hand, is expensive, for it takes a lot of work to harvest the sugar cane and transport it to the factory. In addition, expensive machinery is required to produce the sugar itself. To prepare a kg. of sugar in Cuba costs about 8 cents. A few years ago the cost was much higher. This low figure has only been made possible by the introduction of modern machinery and working methods and by the abolition of burdensome taxes which were formerly imposed on this industry. By further improvements, which can be expected with certainty, it is more than probable that sugar will soon be produced at an even lower figure. Syrup and rum, by-products of sugar manufacture, also constitute an important source of income.

As for Cuban tobacco, it is so well known that no description is necessary. It is sufficient to say that it is the best in the world. What makes it so extraordinary no one knows. Wherever the secret lies, in the soil, in the plant, or in the atmosphere, it is in safe custody, for none of the learned scientists who have devoted so much labor to the study and investigation of the matter have been able to solve this riddle. Many attempts have been made to transfer Cuban tobacco to other

countries, but they have failed in the very attempt. Tobacco of excellent quality is produced in all parts of Cuba, but the westernmost province, Pinar del Rio, has always been most famous for it, and now produces nearly 3/4 of all the tobacco in the island.

If we compare the sugar and tobacco industries, the former is undoubtedly the most important in terms of the amount of capital invested, but if we consider the profits in proportion to the capital invested, the latter comes in the forefront.

Next in the list of Cuba's exports come tropical fruits. These are among the finest that can be found, and oranges, bananas, and pineapples in particular are beyond competition. Among others, the following deserve mention: lemons, coconuts, guava, wild strawberries, grapes, melons, peaches, apricots, olives, figs, dates, mangoes, tamarinds and many others little known in Nordic countries.

Cuba's mineral resources are still little developed, but it is known for certain that iron and copper occur in large quantities.

Valuable species of wood also occur in large quantities. The most important of these are mahogany and cedar, but rosewood, ebony and poplar are also found. The American consul's report in Havana lists no less than 75 different species of wood, which provide valuable material for building construction, furniture manufacturing, tanning, paints, oils, rubber and resin.

Vegetables can also be grown with great advantage, and the domestic market can consume much more than what is now produced.
The soil and climate of Cuba are eminently favorable for the production of the best coffee. Although Cuba has not grown coffee sufficient for her own use in recent years, it was, during the first half of the last century, her chief export, and about 6,000,000 kilograms were annually exported. What has been done before can be done again. The coffee now grown has the same fine taste as before. Without a doubt

this is one of the first industries to flourish on the island.

Many parts of the island are also excellently suited to cattle-raising. Grass of the most excellent quality is abundant. Before the war this industry was of great importance, but during it many thousands of cattle were sacrificed as food for the soldiers and the unfortunate homeless population.

If we exclude the sugar and tobacco trade, the manufacturing industry in Cuba is still in its infancy. Here an opportunity presents itself for the alert and enterprising manufacturer, which is worth considering.

Many live with the idea that Cuba is a country ravaged by deadly diseases, where no white man can live. This was true to some extent, as long as the rotten kingdom of Spain ruled here and did as it pleased, but now the situation is different. Yellow fever, which was formerly a national scourge here, is now almost unknown. Cuba is now a very healthy country, and a white man can live and work here as well as anywhere else.

So richly endowed with natural advantages, so favorably situated for the development of her industries, producing in abundance many of the most important products of the world market, Cuba holds a truly enviable place among nations, and not without reason has it received the name of “the Pearl of the Antilles.”

Immigration and capital are two factors absolutely necessary to the progress of Cuba. The island now has about 1,600,000 inhabitants, but can undoubtedly accommodate three or four times that number. The Cuban government is also fully aware of the great importance of immigration to the development of the country and has this year allocated 1,000,000 dollars to promote it. Of this sum, 200,000 dollars are designated for free travel for exclusively *Scandinavian* workers and the remaining 800,000 for workers' families of all nations.

Immigration is also on the increase, and there are now American, German and Finnish colonies.

The Swedes have also known how to take advantage of this golden opportunity, and at Bayate in the province of Santiago de Cuba is a Swedish colony, which, judging by the work that has been carried out here in a very short time, seems to have great prospects of blossoming into a prosperous and populous community. The Swedish colonists here consist exclusively of farmers from the United States of North America. During the past summer six Swedes came here, during the winter months hardly a day passed without someone coming, and when we celebrated the colony's anniversary on May 14th of this year, there were 87 Swedes here. The land here, which originally belonged to a Swedish company in Minneapolis, is now almost sold out, and next winter a large number of colonists are expected to buy land here.

When the first “settlers” came here, the whole region around here was covered with an impenetrable primeval forest, but the forest has had to give way to the axe and “machete” of the industrious Swede. Roads have been cut, bridges are being built, and one cannot now go far without finding a clearing in the forest, a small, neat wooden house, surrounded by garden land and newly planted fruit trees, and first but not least in the house a Swedish family, who are content and grateful to have left the harsh climate of the North and settled in the South, where they can daily enjoy the friendly sun and blue sky of Cuba.

Bayate, 8 July 1906.

Arthur Engström.

Asked to give my opinion on Cuba and conditions there, I will only say that to the best of my ability Cuba has a great future for itself, both for the capitalist and the worker.

I came to Cuba on 11 July 1905, with the intention of buying a piece of land, which I have done. In this province the country does not appear very attractive to a stranger, for it is covered everywhere with thick forest. Here and there one finds a small opening in the forest where some Cuban

has settled down. His wants are small; a hut with a palm-leaf roof is all the shelter he needs. On his small plot of land he cultivates only the bare necessities for his subsistence. The soil here is extraordinarily fertile, and one wonders why it is not under the plough and harrow. If one turns to a Cuban with an inquiry about this, one gets the following answer: Ever since 1868 this province has been the victim of a devastating war, more than half the population has perished, and the rest has been impoverished. The land rarely belongs to the Cuban who lives there, but either to a wealthy city dweller or to some American company. The Americans have bought the land here on speculation. Then they sell it in small lots and in this way colonies arise. Here are large communities of Americans, Germans and Finns. The Swedes have also known how to seize this opportunity, and here in Bayate we are now about 80. Many others have bought land here, and we are expecting them here with their families for the winter. This colony of ours is unlike the American ones in that it is not built with one man's money and in the interest of an individual matador, but we are all working for the same goal — freedom and prosperity for ourselves and our children, and here we believe is the place to reach this ideal.

I hope that some of our older farmers here will mention something about the productive capacity of the country. In conclusion of my statement, I would like to mention that I am the shepherd and ruler of nearly 300 colonies of bees — and if all goes as in the time of King Solomon, that many queens make wisdom and plans, then I will be both wise and rich, for each hive yields from 3—5 dollars worth of honey and wax annually.

That man is wise, who listens to good advice, therefore come here, while there is some land left to be had, that is my deepest wish.

Bayate, Cuba, 7 July [19]06.

Respectfully,
J. A. Nyström.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July [19]06.

As our esteemed compatriot, Dr. A. Lind, will soon be visiting Sweden, I would like to send him greetings to my old fatherland.

I traveled with my wife and six children from my home in Stugum parish in Jämtland in 1893 to the promised land in the west, where, in my opinion, one could support oneself and one's family more easily than in old Sweden. In this respect I was not mistaken either, but to my disappointment I found that the winters were, if possible, even more difficult in Minn. than in Jämtland. In Cambridge Minn. I lived for 12 years and owned a fine farm of 228 acres. The soil there was of good quality and everything else in good condition. My family increased, so that there were 12 members in the family. Ever since I was a child I have worked hard and froze a lot, and of late my health has been getting worse every year. I myself suffered greatly from rheumatism and there was always someone sick in the family in the winter. Doctor and medical bills became quite expensive, and besides, one cannot exist in a country with cold winters without having expensive houses and warm clothing; it is also necessary to gather winter supplies for both people and livestock. This, combined with high taxes and many other expenses, induced me to leave the “States” and seek my fortune here in Cuba. I had heard that a Swedish colony was being formed in Bayate, and thither I directed my cattle. I have traveled a great deal both in Sweden and America, but I have never seen better land than what is here. On the 16th of November I moved here with my family, and I am now in possession of 160 acres of land here. Here the cattle run about all the year round, you can plant whenever you like, and some things are harvested three or four times a year. Everything that is planted yields a rich return with little work and finds a good market. Sugar cane is the chief product of Cuba, and yields a greater return here than anywhere else. I have now been here 8 months, and I am happy to admit my satisfaction in every respect. Since I came here, I have not had to

spend a cent on either doctor or medicine, for we have all been healthy and look forward to the future with pleasure.

My ability is insufficient to describe Cuba's immense natural wealth in detail, but I dare say that this is the right place for both families and workers who are willing to work for their living.

Should anyone who reads this wish to have any information about our colony, I will conscientiously and to the best of my ability answer all inquiries.

Hoping that in the near future I will also meet countrymen from Sweden in Bayate,

I respectfully subscribe
J. P. Johnson.

Bayate, Cuba, 8 July 1906.

At your request, I will try to write down some impressions from my stay in Cuba, where I arrived in February of this year. I left Sweden on my way to Ill. U. S. A. 4 March 1903. There I worked on a farm for fairly good pay. Times were good for those who wanted to work for others, but getting a piece of land of my own was out of the question, for land was worth from 90 to 125 dollars per acre.

For this reason I was willing to try elsewhere, and when one day I saw an advertisement for cheap land for sale in the Swedish colony at Bayate in Cuba, I decided to take the risk and travel there to see with my own eyes whether everything corresponded to what was promised. All said and done, I left Illinois in the middle of the bitterly cold winter, and a few days later I landed in Havana, where the most delightful summer weather prevailed. Nevertheless, the heat is not excessive, as some might imagine, but just enough to make one feel comfortable. The nights are always cool, almost cold, so you sleep well. A white man can live and work in Cuba just as well as in the Nordic counties.

The soil was good, I thought, before I went here, and I must now admit that it exceeded my best hopes.

The weather is very nice throughout March, April and the first half of May, but since then we have had much rain which has caused us many inconveniences, especially as regards the roads, for as one can see, these are not first-class in so young a community as this. I was out in the rain working every day, and I can mention that I contracted diarrhea as a result, from which I suffered for a fortnight, but it was not worse than if I could work every day.

The vegetation here during the rainy season is immense. We have a few acres planted in sugarcane here, and these did not show much in the middle of May, but since then they have grown surprisingly both in length and thickness and this field is among the most beautiful I have ever seen. Dozens of other products grow excellently here and also find good milk.

I must finally say that I am happy and satisfied that I exchanged the harsh climate of the north for the eternal summer of Cuba, where I can enjoy beautiful weather and the most delicious tropical fruits daily.

Respectfully

Emil Terriblom.

Bayate, Cuba, 6 July [19]06.

After nearly a year's stay in Cuba, I can enjoy some comparisons with what I have seen and experienced during 25 years of stay in the United States and Canada. I first worked in the coal mines in Pennsylvania, then as an agricultural, railroad, and forestry worker and finally as I lived first in Minnesota and then in Canada. I left Minnesota mainly to escape the cold winters, as I suffered from rheumatism. I thought that western Canada would be better, but I was wrong. After 10 years of living there,

I was unable to work, then traveled to British Columbia and Washington to seek a place with a better climate. There the climate was better, but the land very expensive and usually of very poor quality. Later I saw a letter from Dr. A. Lind, in which he described Cuba. After all said and done, I dared the attempt, traveled there and found everything to be in accordance with the description. There I found just what I had been looking for so long, a good climate; the soil was the best I had ever seen and the vegetation incredible. I decided to move here with my family, consisting of wife and six children. We have all been in good health since we came here. It is hot here, but not worse than one feels good about it. Before I came here, I had been unable to work for two years, but since then I have worked for every day. Here I have 188 acres of land, for which I paid 25 dollars per acre. I have been mostly engaged in raising livestock since I came here and have 5 horses, 1 Maltese Jack (breeding stock), 13 cattle, 25 pigs, and 60 chickens. All seem to be doing well. The pigs feed themselves on palm nuts and other fruits and are in good shape to be fattened when the time comes. The horses and cattle do well on green fodder all year round. Sugarcane, corn, and everything else grows, so that one cannot form an idea of it without seeing it. I myself am very grateful to Dr. Lind for what he has done for me and can in good conscience recommend him as an honest and reliable man, quite unlike most of the land agents in the United States and Cuba.

Charles Lindall

Bayate 8 July [19]06.

To each and every one of my countrymen in old Sweden who is interested in knowing what it is like here in Cuba, I would like to make the following statement.

I was born in Sweden in 1844 and went to America in 1866. There I engaged in farming for 36 years and

earned well with pennies. Last winter, I happened to see an advertisement in an American newspaper for land for sale in Cuba. After that, I could not get any peace in my mind, and an irresistible desire drove me to travel there and see with my own eyes whether everything was true, as promised in the flamboyant advertisements. Said and done; I traveled there and in the month of March arrived here in Bayate. I have also been to other places on the island and seen land, both good and bad, but nowhere has it surpassed that which is found here at Bayate. Consequently, I decided to settle here and have not yet had reason to regret it.

There is a great difference between agriculture here and in Nordic countries. In the tropics, it grows all year round, and some products can be harvested 3 or 4 times a year. It should therefore, to the best of my understanding, at least, be easier to earn a living here than in a place where one can only work the land a few months a year.

With great respect

Anders A. Engström.

Bayate, Cuba, July 6 [19]06.

As I have only been in Cuba for seven months, I cannot say much, but in the hope that my countrymen over there in the high north will take some interest in us in the south, I will mention some of my experiences to the best of my ability.

I landed here in the days before Christmas and found a mild and pleasant summer prevailing. The nights were cool, so that one could sleep well. The rainy season falls during the summer, and then the mosquitoes also appear, which in their way try to make life miserable. As for the soil, I don't know where one would go to find a better one. Tropical plants of all kinds thrive here.

As for the state of health, it is as good here as in any other place. For my own part, I have

had diarrhea a few times, but not bothered by any other diseases.

I am fully convinced that here offers a good opportunity for industrious Swedish workers to get a home of their own, where there is constant summer.

August Swanson.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July [19]06.

For health reasons I found myself obliged to leave Minn. where I have resided for 23 years. In recent years I have suffered from gout and catarrh and was almost incapable of any work for the last year. I have now been here at Bayate for half a year and am so well restored that I can work every day. The climate, soil and vegetation here should satisfy all reasonable requirements and are better than I have seen in the States, and I am convinced that anyone who wants and can work should soon achieve financial independence.

Olof Benson.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July 1906.

The undersigned was born in Lekvattnet in Vermland 68 years ago, emigrated to America in 1864, where I have lived in Minnesota, Nebraska and California. I have now been in Bayate, Cuba for a half year. The winter climate here surpasses anything I have yet seen because of the clean, fresh sea air and the even, suitable temperature. The summer heat is not higher than, for example, in Minnesota. The soil and the vegetation leave hardly anything to be desired. That work is required to obtain rich harvests is natural, but with soil and climate that give 3 good harvests annually, it pays to work. Sugar cane grows here unusually well and requires very little work.

Nils Benson.

Bayate, Cuba, 10 July [19]06.

The undersigned, who has traveled through most of Cuba several times and has now been resident in the Swedish colony at Bayate for a few months, would like to mention something about my observations here. This colony now has about 80 Swedes living there, and it is progressing rapidly. Dr. A. Lind, the superintendent of our colony, an honorable and honest man, is now traveling to Sweden for the purpose of attracting capital and emigration to our colony, and I may inform my countrymen that they can place their full trust in him. The Cuban government is giving free passage to Cuba for Scandinavian workers, and I believe that we Swedes should take advantage of this opportunity, because it is likely that such an opportunity will never again present itself. There is still a little unsold land left here in Bayate, and anyone who has a little money would do well to buy a piece. No one should imagine that one can make a living here without work, but a diligent worker has, I believe, a better prospect of getting paid for his labor than elsewhere.

Respectfully,
J. L. Anderson,
born in Traheryd, Kronoberg län.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July [19]06.

I have been a resident of Minnesota for 24 years. Lately I have suffered much from gout and catarrh, and therefore moved here to Bayate in February. I am now perfectly healthy and have purchased 120 acres of the fertile land here for $25 per acre. It is pleasant for a northerner to see everything in bloom in the middle of winter, but even the summer is more pleasant than in Minnesota. The temperature is about the same, but storms and changes are absent here. The vegetation is surprising, and one can harvest 3 times a year. My family, consisting of my wife and 4 children, are, if possible, more fond of Cuba than I am.

C. H. Henrikson.

Bayate, 9 July 1906.

The undersigned was here last winter and enjoyed the wonderful winter climate of Cuba, but could not find good enough land at the western end of the island. On good recommendations I moved here to Bayate at the beginning of April. The land here is of excellent quality and the vegetation is unusual. We came here during the rainy season and as is to be expected in a new settlement with rich land the roads are bad and other conditions are not like those in an older community. Due to this there are probably inconveniences which we hope will improve.

John Anderson.

Bayate, 11 July 1906.

If this were to speak of the United States, I would have quite a lot to say, for my experience there is both long and varied. I lived there for 35 years in various places from Maine to California and Lake Superior to Florida. But with Cuba the situation is different. I have only been here a few months, but I think I can say that the climate is unsurpassed. The soil, at least on the piece of land I have purchased, is the best I have seen in my extensive travels. In Florida I have to pay from 15 to 20 dollars per acre annually for fertilizers. Here I believe with certainty that I can save myself this expense. I do not mean to say that one need only travel here and get a piece of land, and then live in ease. He who believes that makes a terrible mistake. But he who has a little money to start with, is patient and industrious for a few years, can certainly make a good living and a comfortable home here, and spend his remaining days in peace and quiet.

N. O. Swanson.

Bayate, Cuba, 4 July [19]06.

Upon request, I may here give my opinion concerning Cuba and the Swedish colony at Bayate. The country

and the soil is of the first class for the cultivation of sugar cane and tobacco, and also for other kinds of agricultural products. As for the climate, it seems to be healthy for rheumatism and lung diseases, for the temperature is even. It is certainly hot in the sun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., but in the shade it is always cool. The nights are very pleasant and one rests well. Communications are good, for a railway runs through the country. I can best recommend this place to fortune-seeking compatriots who wish to travel to Cuba.

Rickard Lindberg.

Asked to give my opinion on Cuba, I must state that ever since my arrival here, I have been healthy and able to work and am in every respect pleased with the climate.

The vegetation is excellent, especially during the rainy season. As proof, I can mention that the corn I planted has grown to a height of 6 to 8 feet in the short time of 4 weeks. It seems that it will yield a good harvest.

Our greatest concern is that we are too many bachelors, so if any Småland girl should read this, think of us in the sunny South, remember God and travel here.

Drive on, conviction, come here when the snow begins to swirl back home in the North, and see this land of eternal sun and warmth.

Herman Carlson,
Småland.

The undersigned, who has now spent some time in Cuba, can, on request, state that the climate here is the best one could wish for. The heat never goes above 35° C, even on the hottest summer day, nor below 20° C in winter.

Here there is greenery and flowers all year round, and you can grow all kinds of tropical and semi-tropical natural products. Cuba's coffee, tobacco, bananas, oranges, and pineapples have made the island world-

familiar. Sugarcane, above all else, thrives here excellently, and sugar production constitutes the most important industry on the island. Everything that the earth produces finds a rapid consumption at good prices.

In Bayate now live not so few Swedes, and all seem to be satisfied. No fevers or other serious diseases, otherwise so common in the tropics, are found here, for this place is about 400 feet above sea level.

Bayate, 8 July [19]06.

Respectfully
E. G. Ramstedt.

Bayate, Cuba, 9 July 1906.

The undersigned, landowner in the Swedish colony at Bayate, may herewith give my experiences about Cuba and this part of it in particular. Cuba is a healthy country, the climate of which does not pose any obstacle to the residence of Nordics there. The state of health here has been good all along, and the Swedes seem to acclimatize easily.

The country is mostly level, but there are some hilly ones. Everything is covered with forest, but the forest is not difficult to cut down, and when the land is cleared and burned, it is particularly well suited for the cultivation of sugar cane. This grows very quickly here and reaches a considerable size in a comparatively short time.

All kinds of fruits and vegetables thrive well and ripen quickly. Coffee, cocoa, coconut palms and many other products grow excellently here.

Yours sincerely,
John A. Ramstedt.

Bayate, 8 July 1906.

Regarding this colony, I may inform interested countrymen that I believe we have a good future for ourselves,

the climate is good and mild all year round, and one can grow everything that grows in tropical countries, such as coffee, pineapple, bananas, sugar cane, all kinds of vegetables, tobacco, cotton and I also believe that the mulberry tree and the silkworm would thrive well and become a source of great income for those who tried to grow them.

My family and I have been here for half a year and are healthy and well.

With respect
Charles Lindén.

At the municipal meeting held in Bayate on 2 July 1906 a committee of three members was appointed to answer all the questions that could possibly come to the colony due to Dr. A. Lind's trip to Sweden and to give a truthful statement of the present position of the colony.

Since 16 Nov. 1905, when the first party of 24 landed at Bayate, larger and smaller parties have come during the winter.

These came here for various purposes, but most of them to buy land. Others, on the other hand, came only to work or to improve their health.

Almost all of the land buyers were farmers in the United States, and some of them have gone back to arrange their affairs there, so that they can return in the fall to settle here.

The workers were not many, and they came almost exclusively to stay over the winter only. Most of them left again as soon as spring came, but a few are still here.

Those who came here to take care of their health have also gone to their homes in the north during the summer.

At present we are 76 members of our colony, who are busy with various jobs, both in their own and the affairs of the colony. The general opinion in the colony is that we have a good future for ourselves and the people are

satisfied in all respects, although there are now many difficulties during the rainy season.

Finally, we may urge all who are interested in our colony and wish information concerning it and Cuba as a whole to write to us and we will gladly provide all information, to the best of our ability.

Respectfully

Oskar E. Olsson.

J. P. Johnson. *J. A. Nyström.*

Since I have spent more time in Cuba and probably have the greatest responsibility for the others coming there, it should be my duty to also say a few words. A couple of years ago I made a recreational and study trip from Minnesota U. S. A., where I have lived for the most part for the last 25 years, to Cuba. I was so captivated by the many favorable opportunities that the young republic offered, as well as by the delightful winter climate of the island, that I decided to risk my rather extensive medical practice in Minneapolis and devote myself to the life of a settler in Cuba. I was aware of the harsh winter climate of the North and the many thousands of my countrymen who, for the preservation of life and health, had to change their place of residence; moreover, I was familiar with the conditions among the workers in the States and knew that our later immigrants had no particularly bright future there. Good land is now not to be had in the United States, either free or at reasonable prices; and an ordinary quarryman who cannot obtain his own home and cultivate his own turf can hardly be said to have a more enviable lot in America than at home in Sweden. In Cuba the richest land in the world can be had for a price paid for by the first harvest, and industrious Swedish farmers with modern farming implements would become prosperous there in a comparatively short time. I do not wish to claim that I was led only by

how American capitalists, sugar and tobacco monopolists, bought up one stretch of land after another and built up one sugar mill after another. More than 1/4 of Cuba's best land has passed into American hands during the last 3 years and the value of the land is almost doubling in price every year. In addition, Cuba is beginning to become America's “winter resort”. In spite of all the additions, the communications and hotels have been completely inadequate the last 2 winters. A railway across the islands to Keywest, from there the distance to Havana is only 100 km., is under construction, and when it is ready in a year the New York millionaire can board his sleeping car in New York and within 24 hours by rail and fast rail ferry be in sunny Cuba.

All this and much else prompted me to invest my small savings and perhaps my remaining days in Cuba. Together with some wealthy friends, about 40,000 acres (== over 35,000 tunnland) of the best and best situated land we could find were seized after 6 months of exploration. No one can be angry with us for the fact that this land has risen in value. An American company is asking a third more for its inferior land than we sell ours for. That our settlers are satisfied is evident from the above statements. That the Cuban government is interested in us is proved by the appropriation of a million dollars by Congress for the promotion of immigration, the Swedes being placed first on the list; and when I left Havana in mid-July, the government gave me to understand that I may use as much of this million as I can.

I have asked myself several times: can I conscientiously advise my countrymen to emigrate or travel to Cuba? The answer has always been negative. I advise you to leave your ancestral home.

Certain conditions in Sweden cannot be improved, you must travel around the country. The childhood home and the foster land with its memories can never be replaced or displaced,

no matter how well things go in a foreign country. But there are many who, like me 30 years ago, are not satisfied with herring and potatoes and the beautiful view of a farmer's life and probably the poorhouse as a home for the elderly, these must go out into the world, where there is more room for improvement. Hitherto the United States has been the Mecca of the emigrant, but is no longer entitled to be regarded as such. For country people accustomed to hard work I can say that Cuba is the best country to travel to at the present time. These are also the only ones who are allowed to travel there freely with their families. Our experiences with city dwellers as settlers are not encouraging. We have had half a dozen and all of them dissatisfied. The last one was a lady from Boston, she left us indignant because she could not get ice cream and strawberries when she wanted, and besides, the earth hung on her hind legs when it had rained. By some diplomacy in the government grant, such types are excluded from the enjoyment of free passes.

As for the state of health, I dare say that on the whole it is as good in Cuba as in Sweden and better than in the United States. Catarrh, rheumatic diseases, and bronchial complaints are much fewer in Cuba than in Sweden, diarrhea, chills, and other tropical ailments are almost the same in the whole. It must be remembered that Cuba has an island climate. The ocean current from the Arctic Ocean brings fresh, clean air and the Gulf Stream carries away the excess heat. At our nearest weather observation station in Cuba the temperature has never exceeded 37 degrees or fallen below 8 degrees. In Minnesota, on the other hand, it varies every year between 40° and — 41 degrees Celsius. Sunstroke never occurs.

Capital. — No country at present offers so many and rich opportunities for profit on capital as Cuba. The sugar mills there are a whole national wealth in and of themselves, not to mention other less tried branches of industry. A moderate sugar mill never yields less than 10% on the capital employed, and I know several who

earned the large capital cost, i.e. 100%, during the last year. The greatest difficulty has been the shortage of workers, but with Swedish workers the sugar mills should give an even more certain and larger percentage.

The purpose of my visit to the fatherland this time is therefore not only to try to divert the emigration stream from America to Cuba, but also to get Swedish capital there. Millions lie in the banks here, yielding 3 to 4 which could be equally certain in Cuba and yield 10 to 50%. Sufficient American capital is at hand and several companies in Cuba have applied for Swedish workers. I am convinced, however, that our emigrating compatriots would be better off and achieve a better future in cooperation with Swedish capital; and I am also prepared and willing to prove with facts that capital can be safely invested in Cuba and with many times greater profit than can usually be expected here at home.

It is said of the Irishman that he speaks and acts first and then goes home and thinks over what he has said and done; the Swede, on the other hand, says: I shall think over the matter, and neglects the opportunity; the American principle is to figure over it well and act today, for tomorrow it may be too late.

Having witnessed and seen with what giant steps the immense American West has been developed during the last 25 years, one should not be surprised if I regard the occasions in Cuba, where the good, unoccupied pieces of land could be accommodated in Scania, as a matter of the day. This island with a permanent government under the protection and guarantees of the United States, without national debt, without taxes, with all state expenses paid by customs revenues and yet a million dollars a month in surplus. An island state without need of a navy and military expenses or service, with the best climate and the richest soil in the world, and situated so that it must become the orchard and tourist hotel for the richest nations of the world. — This state, this nation greets you, countryman, welcome to share the good, and has set aside

a million dollars to pay the journey for poor, frozen Swedish workers and their families, who want to go there to warm themselves and set up their homes in this rich nature; it wants Swedish manufacturers to establish branches there. The world-famous Swedish matches should spread their light there (such ones cost 1 öre for 5). Sweden's excellent telephones should bang on the palm trees of Cuba, and the wood pulp manufacturer would find his true nature in Cuba's immense plant wealth. Nothing, however, can be better than to have his often bitterly acquired money transformed into sweetness. Sugar is the same as gold and grows fast there.

A. Lind.
med. Lic.

Sugar production in Cuba.

No country is so naturally favored for sugar production as Cuba. There is no need for irrigation as in Hawaii and Egypt, and the canes do not have to be constantly replanted as in most other countries. There are 4 to 5 months of drought in the winter for harvesting and abundant rain during the rest of the year for growing. The best market in the world, the United States, gives special advantages for Cuban sugar, and the annexation of Cuba to this republic in the near future makes it even more secure. Sugar production is not an uncertain undertaking; crop failures have never occurred. The only thing to be sure of is that it is planted on good, rich land, where there is sufficient rain and sunshine.

An acre, about a quarter of a hectare, yields from 25 to 50 tons of sugar cane and can be harvested one year after planting or the last cutting, and on good soil it does not need to be replanted more than every ten years. If you are not ready to cut it when it is a year old, it can stand for a few months or years longer and grow in the meantime. From 9% to 14% of the weight of the cane is sugar. Full plans and specifications are given in the following details (given by

Y. Pallado & Octaviv Davis, a pair of Cuba's best "experts" in this topic).

D. Stewart & Co., Glasgow, one of the largest sugar mill manufacturers in the world, have adopted these plans and details and have given firm offers to erect any one at the price given under guarantee of complete and safe working order.

The smallest type has a capacity of 625 tons per day, yielding 7,500 tons of sugar per 100 days after 12%. This type is the least absolutely safe as far as profit is concerned. The second type has about double the capacity of the first, or 15,000 tons. The Cuba Railway Company erected one of these last year and intends to erect several more. The third type has three times the capacity of the first and is still more economical.

Sugar mill for 625 tons of cane per day.

Land, 2,500 acres, at $30 per acre ($1 = kr. 3.65)	$75,000
Planting and clearing of 1,700 acres at $30 per acre	51,000
Sugar mill, completely ready for work, all modern	400,000
Houses for workers	20,000
250 pairs of oxen, $125 per pair	31,250
75 ox carts, $125 each	9,375
Working capital on hand etc.	63,375
Capital in use	650,000

Annual expenses.

Cost of 62,500 tons of cane, cutting, driving, etc. at $1.65 ..	$103,125
Cost of sugar mill operation according to table	79,878
50,000 sacks of sugar at 18 cents each	9,000
Shipping at $1 per ton	7,500
Total annual cost	199,505
Value of harvest, 7,500 tons of sugar at $37 (lowest price) ...	277,500
Average annual income at low price of sugar	77,997

By treaty with the United States, Cuban sugar is imported there with a 20% lower duty, making 6.74 per ton, raising the profit to 128,547 or 19.77% of 650,000. Cost per ton (free on board ship) 26.60.

Sugar mill with a capacity of 1,250 tons per day.

Land, 5,000 acres, $30 per acre	$150,000
Planting and clearing of 3,400 acres at $30 per acre	102,000
Sugar mill ready for work, all modern	575,000
340 pairs of oxen at $125 per pair	42,000
100 oxcarts at $125 each	9,375
Working capital on hand etc.	120,500
3 locomotives at $12,500 each	37,500
50 railroad cars at $700	35,000
5 cranes for handling at $3,000	15,000
10 miles (5,280 feet) of railroad at $1,200	120,000
Capital in use	1,250,000

Annual expenses.

Cost of 125,000 tons of pipe, cutting, driving etc. at $ 1.65	$ 205,250
Cost of operation of the sugar mill according to table	106,504
100,000 bags of sugar at 18 cents each	18,000
Shipping at $1 per ton	15,000
Total annual cost	345,754
Value of crop, 15,000 tons, of sugar at $37 per ton	555,000
Annual revenue	209,256
or with customs duty deductions in the States	310,346

which gives 24.83% of 1,250,000. Cost per ton of sugar f. o. b. ship 23.05.

Sugar mill with 1,875 tons daily capacity.

Land, 5,000 acres, at $30 per acre	$150,000
5,000 acres planted and cleared	150,000
Sugar mill in working order	890,000
5 locomotives at $12,500 each	62,500
15 miles (= 20 + km.) of railroad at $12,000 per mile	180,000
75 railroad cars at $700	52,500
6 cranes for handling at $3,000 each	18,000
Houses for laborers and clerks	50,000
500 pairs of oxen at $125	62,500
150 carts at $125	18,750
Working capital on hand etc.	165,750
Capital in use	1,800,000

Annual expenses.

Cost of 187,500 tons of cane, cutting, driving, etc.	$ 309,375
Cost of sugar mill operation according to table	113,080
160,000 bags of sugar at 18 cents	28,800
Ship loading at $1 per ton	22,500
Total annual cost f. o. b. s.	473,755
Cost per ton (approximately 900 kg.) loaded on boat	$ 21.05.
Value of the crop 22,500 tons at $37 per ton	832,500
Costs for the year	473,755
Annual profit	358,745

or 20% of 1,800,000, which with a 20% duty deduction in the United States would be 510,395 or 28.35% of the capital.

Anyone who becomes more familiar with these figures will find that the expenses are rather roundly increased and could be considerably reduced; sugar prices, on the other hand, are low and even with a roundly cut freight, Cuban sugar could be sold in a Swedish port for 15 öre per kilogram and still give the manufacturer 20% on his invested capital.

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